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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS
EPISODE NO. 537

PROGRAM TITLE

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

BERGOFFEN

WRITER

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1943

DAY & DATE

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

JIM--HARVEY HAYS
ESS--KATHERINE CORD
ARY--LUCILE HUSTING
RRY--JOHN LARKIN

CAST

SOUND

REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:

This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Announcer

Production Director

Agency Producer or Announcer

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WJOM NEWS-STAR POST 45X

1 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers !

2 MUSIC: THEME

3 ANNOUNCER: Recently, Governor Langlie of the State of Washington
4 sent this message through the Keep-Washington-Green
5 association to the people of his State. The Governor
6 had this to say, quote, "We are now in the season of
7 greatest danger to our State, both from within and
8 without. This critical period will last as long as
9 the woods are dry, or until the autumn rains. More
10 bombs will fall on the Pacific Northwest forests this
11 year if the Japs can drop them there. They know, do
12 the Japs, that forest products are as important as
13 steel in this war. They know that the quickest way
14 to halt the steady flow of forest products is to set
15 the woods afire. They know that forest fire will not
16 only stop production but that its smoke will hamper
17 airforce training, also the work of our patrols in the
18 air and at sea. And remember," concludes the Governor,
19 "that a fire started by a careless American can be just
20 as dangerous to our war effort as one started by a Jap
21 bomb".....Well, at the Pine Cone Ranger Station, Ranger
22 Jim Robbins and his assistant, Jerry Quick, are certainly
23 aware of the fire evil through long and bitter personal
24 experience.
25

MORE.

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1 ANNOUNCER (CONTINUED)

2 We find them out in the warehouse today working over
3 fire tools, getting them in shape for whatever may
4 happen. With regular fire-fighting man-power scarcer
5 than ever before in the history of the Pine Cone,
6 Jerry is definitely pessimistic about this year's
7 prospects. Well, here they are.....

8 FADE IN SOUND OF SHARPENING TOOLS, OCCASIONAL CLASH OF METAL, ETC. AT
9 INTERVALS.
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These authors also found that the mean age of onset of the disorder was 12.5 years.

from the bottom in the form of the base.

along with two other people, the first of whom

JIM: (GOODNATUREDLY) Hey there, Jerry, watch what you're doin'. You'll have that axe whittled down to the handle, the way you're sharpening it.

JERRY: Huh?....Oh, I didn't realize I was getting it down so fine...

JIM: It's all right to have a sharp axe but when you get one with an edge that'll chip off first smack you give it, well.....

JERRY: I guess I was thinking about something else.....About..... well, you know well enough what we're facing this fire season. How can you be so doggone calm about it?

JIM: Seems to me our boys didn't take Bizerte 'til they got it, Jerry.....or puttin' it the old way, why cross our bridges 'til we come to 'em?

JERRY: Hey now, wait a minute. I've been in this Forest Service long enough to know that when it comes to forest fires, and building up a fire control organization and all, we gotta figure on crossing bridges long before we get to 'em.

JIM: You're talkin' about something else now, Jerry. About planning and preparedness...Nobody can say we haven't been getting ready for whatever fires it's our misfortune to have to fight, this summer.

JERRY: I know. I know. But that still doesn't alter the fact that our regular fire crews have been cut down to the bone, does it? And there's no substitute for man-power when it comes to fighting fire. That's a line sight out of your book, Mister Ranger.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yeah, it sounds familiar. (SERIOUS) Look, Jerry. I don't feel so bad about our fire prospects this year because I think we will have the man-power we need, when we need it out there on the fire line.

JERRY: But I tell you we won't. The CCC boys are gone, and our regular guards are way down and.....

JIM: And the membership of the Forest Fire Fighters Service is way up, Jerry. You kinda forgot about the Triple F-S, huh?

JERRY: No I didn't forget about 'em, but, well shucks, you just can't count too much on those volunteer fire fighters.

JIM: I see. You didn't forget the Triple F-S. You simply discount them as an effective aid to us in fire control, huh?

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately
and wondering how you are getting on. I hope
you are well and happy. I have been very busy
with my work, but I always find time to think
of my friends.

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of my friends.

JERRY: Well, look at the Winding Creek Crew, Jim. You've got Mary, a school-teacher, for a truck driver, and a couple dozen high school boys and older men for firefighters, and a few housewives for supply and food work, and Andy Goodman as fire boss. Golly, Jim, Andy may be a good storekeeper, but that's no sign he'll make a good fire boss, is it?

How much help can that outfit give us, really?

JIM: Jerry, if all of us had the same notion you've got, we'd be in a fine mess, getting things done here on the home front, wouldn't we. The huskies we used to have here on the Pine Cone to fight fire with are gone all right--they've got another job to do right now. (WORKING UP) And here at home, we got the schoolteachers and housewives and high school kids and, yes, the older men to fill in the gaps, and I say, Thank God for all of 'em, and the more that volunteer to help us lick forest fires, the better.....

JERRY: Aw now, wait, Jim...Don't get me all wrong. I think all those folks are swell, sure, but when it comes to fighting fire...well, it makes me kinda anxious.

JIM: Well, I helped train Andy Goodman's crew of fire fighters and they'll get my vote right down the line. I tell you, Jerry, they'll come through, every blessed one of 'em. They've got what it takes. Spirit and sincerity and guts.

JERRY: (GLUMLY) I hope you're right, Jim, and that's all. As for me, I'd fell better if we could get 'em out on about a dozen test fires before we had 'em put in any real licks.

JIM: There's been no time for that, as you know, Jerry. All those Fire Fighter Service folks have been good enough, I figure, to take the time to train right, without our botherin' 'em except in real emergencies.

JERRY: Then you'd send 'em out anytime? Even today, with the wind coming up like it is and.....

JIM: Yes, Jerry, they volunteered to help protect this district, so I'm countin' on 'em, and furthermore.....

BESS: (CALLING--OFF) Jim! Jim Robbins.....

JERRY: It's your wife, Jim.

JIM: Yeah. (CALLS) Here we are, Bess.

BESS: (COMING ON) Jim, Windy Mountain lookout's just reported a fire. It's coming up fast, too, the lookout says.

JERRY: (GROANS) Talk about the devil.

JIM: What's the location, Bess?

1 BESS: Below Winding Creek, Jim. Windy Mountain says the
2 wind's going to move it along pretty fast if you
3 don't get right on it.

4 JIM: Yeah...hmmm...let's see now. Wind out of the northeast
5 and.....

6 JERRY: Holy smoke, Jim. That'll take that fire right up through
7 that power line right-of-way. And it hasn't been cleared
8 of brush and inflammable stuff yet.

9 JIM: Yes, that could be bad all right. Elk City and that
10 big war plant depends on that line for power, too.

11 JERRY: I'll go call out all the guards we got, Jim. And tell
12 Al Perkins and his woods crew to start heading out, too.
13 And maybe we better have the soldiers at the Army camp
14 stand by to help, huh?

15 JIM: No, Jerry. The guards better stick where they are....
16 no telling where they might be needed more 'fore day's
17 over. And I don't want to take Al Perkins' men away
18 from their timber cutting if I can help it. And as for
19 the Army camp and those boys in training, that's out
20 except as a last ditch call.

21 BESS: I think you're right, Jim. And besides that's in the
22 area assigned to the Winding Creek Fire Fighters Service,
23 don't forget.
24
25

1 JERRY: Good gravy. You, too, Mrs. Robbins?

2 BESS: What do you mean by that, Jerry?

3 JIM: Skip it, Bess. You better carry on as dispatcher and
4 get Mary and that crew in town rounded up and on their
5 way. They'll need their tools, and water and maybe
6 some food.

7 BESS: I know, Jim. I've already called them and given them
8 their instructions.

9 JERRY: You what?

10 JIM: (CHUCKLING) You heard her, Jerry. You should've
11 remembered Bess is a full-fledged Triple-F-S member
12 herself.. Come on, (GOING OFF) we better head out
13 to that fire.

14 JERRY: Yeah. Yeah, sure. But I still don't like it.....

15 BESS: (CALLING AS MOTOR STARTS UP) Good luck, Jim! Be careful!

16 PAUSE:

17 JERRY: (FADING IN) Golly, Jim, it's goin' to be bad, I tell you.
18 And still no Mary and Andy and their crew.

19 JIM: (TERSELY) Try Bess on the radio again, Jerry. Find out
20 if that crew's left town. And what Windy Mountain has
21 to say about the other end of this fire. I don't like
22 the wind shifting away from us this way.

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JERRY: Jim, I sure hope you're right about that Triple F-S crew...Well, here goes. SP-7 calling M-5, Ranger Station. SP-7 to M-5, SP-7 to M-5. Come in, M-5.

BESS: (FILTER) M-5 back to SP-7. All right, Jerry, go ahead.

JERRY: Mrs. Robbins, how about Andy Goodman and that Triple F-S crew? We haven't seen them at all yet. And Jim wants to know how the fire looks from Windy Mountain lookout. Come in.....

BESS: (FILTER) Jerry, that crew is already on the fire, and has been for half an hour at least. I sent them right up to the head of the fire and they must be doing all right, too, because Windy Mountain just told me they seem to be knocking the fire down, there at the head. The main fire has switched to south of Pilot Knob. Come in...

JERRY: Holy smoke, Jim, did you hear that? And here we are, off to the north.....

BESS: (FILTER) Hello, hello. Jerry? Did you get my message?

JIM: Go on, answer her, Jerry. Tell her we're about to join the crew. Tell her she's doing a swell job and that you and I are about to learn how a well-trained volunteer crew can put it over on a couple of old hands like us.

1 JERRY: Aw, Jim....

2 BESS: (FILTER) M-5 to SP-7..Hello, Hello...Jerry, did you get
3 my last message?

4 JIM: Go on. Tell her what I told you, Jerry. If we don't
5 hurry, those amateur firefighters will have this whole
6 thing under control before we even (FADE) catch up with
7 'em....

8 PAUSE:

9 FADE IN TRAMPING THROUGH BRUSH, GRADUALLY BRING SOUND OF FIRE ON, AND
10 SIZZLING OF WATER ON FIRE, AXES, ETC.

11 JERRY: There they are, Jim, up ahead there.

12 JIM: YEAH. I see..Say, isn't that Mary with those high-school
13 youngsters?

14 JERRY: Yep. Say, aren't those kids puttin' out, though. Look
15 at 'em go, Jim.

16 JIM: Looks like they've got that one-lick system down pat....
17 I wonder where Andy is?

18 MARY: (OFF) Jerry !...Hey, Jerry !

19 JERRY: (CALLING) Hi there, Mary.

20 JIM: (CALLING) Keep right on working, boys. Don't stop for us.

21 MARY: (COMING ON) Don't worry. They won't stop for anything,
22 Mr. Robbins. Not these boys. The fire's the enemy, see?
23 And they're getting in their own brand of blitzkrieg,
24 believe me. Where have you two been? On the other side?
25

1 JIM: Yeah, I reckon so, Mary....

2 JERRY: (BOSSY) Never mind where we've been. What are you
3 doing here on the fire line, Mary? You're s'posed to
4 be a truck driver and messenger in this Triple F-S
5 outfit, aren't you?

6 MARY: Never mind that superior air, young man. When we got
7 here, Mr. Goodman sent me right off to try and find
8 you two. But you didn't seem to be around so I came
9 back to join the boys, and we went ahead on our own.

10 JIM: Good girl, Mary. Where's Andy now?

11 MARY: He split up the crew like you instructed us. Mr. Robbins.
12 Way back there at the head of the fire. It was certainly
13 bad for a while but we stopped it at the head all right,
14 and just before it got to the Elk City power line, too.
15 Wasn't that good?

16 JIM: You bet it was, Mary. Mighty fine.

17 MARY: Mr. Goodman thought we'd find you and Jerry up there at
18 the head of the fire, Mr. Robbins, 'specially since that
19 was the closest point to the power line, too. Mr. Goodman
20 thought maybe you'd forgotten the line dips back in here,
21 but I said no, you wouldn't forget anything as important
22 as that and that you must've had a good reason for not
23 meeting us there. Was I right, Jerry?

24

25

JERRY: (CLEARING THROAT) If..if you don't mind, Mary, we'll ask the questions. That's one thing you gotta learn, you know. When your superior officer comes on the fire line he takes over as fire boss and

JIM: (CHUCKLING) If I were you, Jerry, I think I'd lay off that stuff-shirt talk..Mary's still fire boss here fer's I'm concerned.....

No, we might as well admit that the shift in the wind fooled us, Mary, and we guessed wrong on which way the fire would soread. In fact, I guess we were wrong, Jerry and I, about a lot of things. Huh, Jerry?

JERRY: (HUMBLE) Yeah, I guess so. And you don't have to share it all with me either, Jim.

MARY: Oh, dear. Then I'll have to apologize to Mr. Goodman.

JIM: No, Mary. I'll do the apologizing myself if any apologies are necessary. Good gravy, if you folks hadn't been on your toes this woulda been a fine mess.

JERRY: Yeah. A couple of old regular fire-eaters like us lettin' a bunch of volunteer fire fighters---well, I won't be getting over this for a long time.

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MARY: I still can't make out all your double-talk, but anyway, Mr. Robbins, we caught the man who started this fire, too.

JIM: Huh? What's that you're saying? You know how this fire started?

MARY: (PROUDLY) Of course. One of the women, Mrs. Talcott it was, was following us up in her own car with water and lunches and she saw this man running down the road. And you know how suspicious she is?.....Well, she stopped him and made him come with her and he admitted he was careless with his smoking--he'd been fishing--and, well....

JERRY: Where's this bird now, Mary? If I can just get my mitts on him....

MARY: (LAUGHS) He wouldn't be any match for you, Jerry. Not now, I'm thinking. Mr. Goodman put him right to work fighting fire with his half of the crew. The poor fellow was mighty sorry about what he'd done and certainly went to work with a will, I can tell you.

JIM: Well, we'll have a little talk with him later....Right now, I reckon we better lift a hand ourselves, huh Jerry? We don't want a bunch of high school boys, and older men, and storekeepers and housewives to do all the work out here today, do we?

JERRY: Yes sir! I mean, no sir, we do not...uh, Mary?

MARY: Yes, Jerry?

1 JERRY: (HUMBLY) Mary, where do you think I might be the
2 most help in putting out this fire? You're still
3 the fire boss, you know.

4 JIM AND MARY LAUGH OUT

5 MUSICAL FINALE
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ANNOUNCER: Yes, folks, Rangers all over America are finding out what a splendid job volunteer fire fighters can do in combatting that dangerous ally of our enemies, forest and range fires. If you're interested in doing still more than you are right now on the home front, join the Forest Fire Fighters Service, organized under the auspices of federal and state forest protection agencies and the Office of Civilian Defense. See your local defense council today...This program has been a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.....

(Bergoffen)

ECG-11:10 A.M.
5-29-43

